

Approved: February 7, 2013

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, January 3, 2013
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Barbara Matthews, City Manager

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Cardon seconded approval of the December 6 meeting minutes with one minor correction. The motion passed 6-0-1 [having missed the previous meeting, Commissioner Kravitz abstained].

Discussion with the City Manager

City Manager Barbara Matthews attended the meeting and discussed her prior 27 years of municipal employment experience, including her interest in environmental issues. In turn, the Commissioners introduced themselves and noted why Commission service was attractive to them. Commissioners also explained the history and accomplishments of the organization over the past 10 years.

FY 13 & FY14 Commission Goals and Objectives

- Chair Reed intends to offer a proposal for how issues get raised to the attention of a Committee or the full Commission.
- The main goal is to raise the Commission's profile and get more people involved.
 - It was suggested that the Commission sponsor an environmental professional social event to attract potential volunteers.
 - It was pointed out that prospective volunteers will likely want to know what actions the Commission needs volunteers for before they will commit their time to the cause.
 - Commissioner Lye will discuss a Commission Facebook and Linked In page with the City's Communications Team.
- A second goal is to demonstrate that investments in energy efficiency are cost effective.
- There was consensus to retain the existing Committees. Each of the Committees was asked to prepare and circulate an action plan for the February meeting. These priorities will be reviewed and endorsed at the February meeting.

Hometown Holidays 2013

The Commission again intends to participate in Rockville's *Hometown Holidays* (HTH) celebration over the May Memorial Day weekend. The solar vender that assisted with last year's booth is willing to participate in 2013. The Commission also intends to preview an environmental film over the weekend. Commissioner Lye will forward an email link to several film trailers that are under consideration. The specific film will be determined by the February Commission meeting. Commissioner Kravitz will approach the Regal Theater to see if a screen can be reserved.

Environmental Management Staff Report

- Mark Charles reported that the Mayor and Council unanimously adopted the amendments to the City's Stormwater Ordinance (City Code Chapter 19) and revisions to the implementing regulations on December 17, 2012. The revised documents were subsequently sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment for final review and approval.
- The Mayor and Council will be briefed on the Rock Creek Watershed Assessment on Monday, February 25, 2013.
- Mark Charles reported that Metro is reconsidering whether it will lead the procurement initiative to purchase solar installations around the area. Montgomery County may decide to take its place.

New Business/Announcements

- Commissioner Kravitz moved and Commissioner Lye seconded a motion not to participate in this year's *Rockville Science Day* program scheduled for April 28, 2013 at Montgomery College. The motion passed 7-0.
- It was noted that the Mayor and Council is seeking input on whether to replace the Stone Street pedestrian bridge. A public hearing is scheduled for January 14 if Commissioners are interested in attending.

Adjourn

Commissioner Palakovich Carr moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:28 pm. The motion passed 7-0.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.